

ILLINOIS POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD

October 31, 1972

MONSANTO COMPANY)

v.)

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY)

PCB 72-336)

OPINION AND ORDER OF THE BOARD (by Mr. Dumelle)

On August 10, 1972 the Monsanto Company (Monsanto) filed a petition requesting an extension for an additional year of their variance to discharge mercury in quantities greater than the regulation (PCB 71-110, November 8, 1971, 3PCB 9) from the W.G. Krummrich Plant at Sauget.

Without a hearing we grant the variance for an additional year until November 7, 1973 for the reasons discussed below and subject to the conditions listed.

In our initial variance in this proceeding we set certain conditions upon Monsanto. The Agency, in a late filed recommendation received by us October 31, 1972 (the date of this decision) agrees that substantial compliance has been achieved with the original conditions. The only dispute appears over the amount of mercury to be permitted to be discharged. Monsanto asks to discharge "up to 0.5 lbs. of mercury per day as a daily average" (Petition).

The Agency in its recommendation mentions a Federal EPA "guideline" of 0.25 lbs. of mercury per day. No documentation of this "guideline" was submitted to the Board and we are unable to determine if in fact Monsanto agreed to meet this lower level of discharge.

Both Monsanto and the Agency point out that actual discharges for the six months ending July 1972 were 0.33 lbs. per day. Monsanto's recital of progress in reducing mercury discharges convinces us that the most recent discharge level (0.33 lbs. per day) can be met as an average based upon a six month moving average. The instant variance request asks that 0.5 lbs. per day

of mercury be permitted as a daily average. We shall permit this as a peak level not to be exceeded in any 24-hour period.

In January 1971 Monsanto was discharging 7.7 lbs. per day of mercury. They are now capable of meeting 0.33 lbs. per day for a most commendable reduction of 95.8% from the level of just 21 months ago.

Monsanto's petition states that 0.25 lbs. per day of mercury is lost from sources other than the chlor-alkali plant (which discharges 0.04 to 0.06 lbs. per day). We urge additional study of mercury contents in all raw materials used by Monsanto as well as attention to the removal of mercury deposits in the plant sewer system joints and cracks. And we again call attention to the mercury materials balance of the chlor-alkali plant which showed in 1971 an unexplained loss of 32,000 lbs. of this toxic metal that year. If these 16 tons of mercury are going to the Sauget atmosphere each year we should know that and limit that type of emission. If this mercury is going out of the Krummrich plant in the form of sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide or in the chlorine gas then we should also know that and prevent environmental contamination elsewhere by users of these products.

We will require a verification of the statements in the petition by an officer of Monsanto to be filed by December 11, 1972 with the Board and Agency.

The conditions listed in the order replace the conditions of the original variance and are patterned after them.

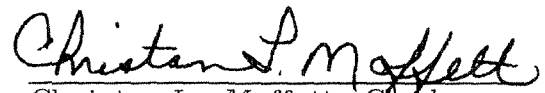
This opinion constitutes the Board's findings of fact and conclusions of law.

ORDER

1. Variance is granted until November 6, 1973 to permit discharge of mercury up to 0.33 lbs. per day based upon a 6-month moving average but not to exceed 0.5 lbs. in any 24-hour period.
2. Monsanto shall submit a verification of the petition executed by an officer to be filed with the Board and Agency by December 11, 1972.
3. Monsanto shall sample and analyze the mercury-bearing waste water which is alternately put in one of the two storage tanks prior to release to the village sewers and treatment plant. If the concentration of mercury is too high the wastes must be rerouted for further treatment.

4. Monsanto shall submit to the EPA monthly reports on the progress of its mercury abatement program. The reports shall include a listing of the mercury concentration of the waste water storage tanks before discharge and shall be submitted a reasonable time after the end of the month.
5. Monsanto shall submit to the Agency and the Board within six months from date a report listing the mercury materials balance for the chlor-alkali plant including the amounts which are emitted into the atmosphere and those which leave the plant contained in the products manufactured.
6. Failure to adhere to any of the conditions of this variance shall be grounds for revocation of the variance.

I, Christan L. Moffett, Clerk of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, hereby certify the above Opinion and Order were adopted on the 31st day of October, 1972 by a vote of 5-0.


Christan L. Moffett, Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board

